

GLOBAL CITIZENS CIRCLE PARTICIPANTS LIST



YOUTH RESILIENCE IN TIMES OF CONFLICT:
STORIES FROM AFGHANISTAN, SYRIA & UKRAINE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10
10:00AM - 11:30PM ET

DISCUSSION LEADERS

Nilab Ahmadi

Nilab is a youth activist and holds a law degree from Kabul University. Since 2015, she has been volunteering with several organizations on social and educational projects, including UN-Women, the UN-75 initiative for Kabul University, Dynamic Youth Afghanistan, and the American Embassy of Afghanistan-funded programs for Lincoln Learning Center. She is currently working with the United Nations World Food Program.

Ahmad Bakdad

Ahmad is a 28 year-old child protection officer with UNICEF in Aleppo, Syria. Trained as a lawyer, he worked for five years in the legal field before realizing he wanted to build a career supporting children and youth, the most severely affected by the war. Ahmad has worked as the National Child-Safeguarding advisor for SOS Syria children's villages as well as with UNDP and Syria trust for development Congress of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, and many other honors.

Sophia Kopytko

Sophia is a 16 year-old champion in pole sports and has been active in theater since she was a child. This year marks her sixth anniversary as a member of the Theater of Chernivtsi Youth. The theater engages young people aged 6 to 20. During rehearsals and performances kids can forget the word "war" for a moment and dip into art and communication. Chernivtsi, a city in the west of Ukraine, has served as a refuge for many displaced people from cities under siege in the country.

Oleksandra Goldina

Oleksandra, or Sasha, is a 16 year-old with a passion for theater. She has been acting at the Theater of Chernivtsi Youth for the past year and especially loves the idea of spreading Ukrainian history and culture via theater. Being involved with the Theater of Chernivtsi Youth has given her a space to do exactly that. The Theater's main aim during the war is to keep creative development flowing and by helping children find their voices through acting during this hard time.

MODERATOR

Leon Gojani

Leon was born in Kosovo and grew up there during the Kosovo War in the 1990's. He now lives in Portugal and works in youth leadership as a Program Director at MCW Global. Leon is an alum of MCW's Young Leaders Access Program & first joined as a mentee in 2015 and returned as a mentor, facilitator, and now running the program he participated in as a young leader.

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Shallan Adams, Clackamas, Oregon
Maria Aguirre, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, SNHU, Manchester, NH
Muzhda Ahmadi, Human Rights Activist, Germany
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Esmatullah Attayee, Afghanistan
Mursal Ayobi, Kunduz, Afghanistan
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John Bell, Belmont, MA
Michelle Benjamin, Producer/Host People of Purpose Talk Show, South Africa
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Sidney and Ione Moran, Semi-retired Journalist and Geologist, Houston, TX

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Abdul Basir Sarwari Security and Migration Management/Humanitarian issues

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Shogufa Youldash, Kabul, Afghanistan

Masihullah Zaher, Site Engineer AHDAA, Kabul, Afghanistan

GLOBAL CITIZENS CIRCLE THANKS ITS PARTNERS

Social Change Initiative, based in Belfast, Northern Ireland, collaborates with activists, policy makers and funders to deliver lasting social change; working to secure progressive social change so that communities become fairer, more inclusive and peaceful.

Southern New Hampshire University, established in 1932, is one of the fastest growing universities in the US thanks to its increased focus on online learning and continuing education for adults and veterans. In 2017 it created GEM, an international initiative to provide a college education and a path to work for refugees and other vulnerable populations. SNHU is also the home of Global Citizens Circle.